

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application. Claims 42 and 43 were each amended to correct minor typographical errors.

The Examiner indicated that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

- I. Embodiment of Figs. 1-4;
- II. Embodiment of Fig. 5; and
- III. Embodiment of Fig. 6.

The Examiner has required Applicant to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Although it was asserted that no claim is generic, Applicant respectfully refutes this assertion and traverses the required election of species as claims 1 and 29 are generic to multiple embodiments identified above.

Claim 1 is generic to at least Species I and II as claim 1 reads on both Figs. 1-4 and Fig. 5, requires no material element additional to those required by claims 13-17 (which also read on Fig. 5), and each of claims 13-17 require all the limitations of claim 1. That is, claim 13 requires a first conduit which connects a clearance to an external reservoir and a second conduit which connects the external reservoir to a lubricant source, the separate first and second conduits being only one potential embodiment of "a conduit connected to the clearance for receiving lubricant from the clearance and delivering the lubricant back to the lubricant source" as recited in claim 1. Further, claim 29 is generic to all three of Species I, II, and III as claim 29 reads on Figs. 1-6, requires no material element additional to those required by claims 33-43 (which also read on Fig. 6), and each of claims 33-43 require all the limitations of claim 29.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully provisionally elects, with traverse, species I relating to the embodiment of Figs. 1-4. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected Species II and III and other embodiments of the application in one or more divisional patent applications if the restriction requirement is upheld.

The Examiner has also required Applicant to provide a listing of all claims readable on the elected species.

Applicant hereby identifies Claims 1-12 and 29-32 as being readable on provisionally elected Species I relating to the embodiment of Figs. 1-4. Applicant reserves the right to later list claims that are readable on elected Species I that are subsequently added or were originally filed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, examination of the current application on the merits and entry of the present amendment are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,



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